

Cc: Kellen, Karen[Kellen.Karen@epa.gov]; Buhl, Rick[Buhl.Rick@epa.gov]; Kortuem, Patrice[Kortuem.Patrice@epa.gov]; Shanahan, Mike[Shanahan.Mike@epa.gov]; Copt, Britta[Copt.Britta@epa.gov]; Christenson, Dave[Christenson.Dave@epa.gov]
To: Hobart, Yolanda[Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov]
From: Karen Kellen
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 4:43:44 PM
Subject: Re: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

It took a couple of tries but I got my message out. I told anyone with concerns about L3607 representing their BU members in the interviews should contact Dave and/or Britta.

Karen Kellen, President
AFGE Council 238

303-910-0541

On Aug 17, 2015, at 11:18 AM, Hobart, Yolanda <Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov> wrote:

Karen,

I wanted to follow up with you regarding the Region's request to allow Britta Copt and Local 3607 represent non-Region 8 EPA bargaining unit employees should they be questioned by the IG. Also, did you have a chance to contact the Union Presidents from the other Unions (NTEU, NAGE, etc.) about Local 3607 representing their bargaining unit employees should they be questioned by the IG?

Thank you for your help on these issues.

Yolanda Hobart

Labor and Employee Relations Officer

EPA Region 8

p: 303-312-6195

c: 303-565-0658

f: 303-312-6370

hobart.yolanda@epa.gov

From: Hobart, Yolanda
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Copt, Britta; Christenson, Dave; Kellen, Karen
Cc: Buhl, Rick; Kortuem, Patrice; Shanahan, Mike
Subject: RE: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

Britta, Dave, and Karen,

I want to add that the Regions agreement to pay for your travel to Durango during this time does not serve as a precedent for future similar requests. Due to the nature and enormity of the incident, we do not believe it to be prudent to pull employees back to Denver when they are continuing to help with the response.

Thank you.

Yolanda Hobart

Labor and Employee Relations Officer

EPA Region 8

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f: 303-312-6370

hobart.yolanda@epa.gov

From: Hobart, Yolanda
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:19 PM
To: Copt, Britta; Christenson, Dave; Kellen, Karen
Cc: Buhl, Rick; Kortuem, Patrice; Shanahan, Mike
Subject: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

All,

Per the Union's request and our conversation this morning, the Region has agreed to pay for travel to Durango to provide representation to bargaining unit employees (BUEs) while the IG is investigating the Gold King Mine spill. We have contacted Christine Portillos for those travel arrangements and are being worked. Dave will travel to Durango Monday, August 17, through Wednesday, August 19. Britta will travel to Durango Wednesday, August 19, through Saturday, August 22. As things change, we can get those travel plans updated.

The Union also requested a list of all Region 8 BUEs who are currently deployed to the Gold King Mine spill area. I have contacted Luke Chavez and requested the list. Once I receive it, I will forward a copy to the Union.

Region 8 has requested the Union's assistance regarding the representation of EPA BUEs covered by AFGE who may be questioned during the IG investigation. We requested that AFGE Counsel President, Karen Kellen, allow Britta Copt and AFGE Local 3607 to be the lead for representing those employees who are assisting Region 8 with the spill response in the Durango area. Karen agreed and will send out an e-mail to her AFGE Union Presidents informing them that Britta will be the main POC for representation. Karen also agreed to contact her Union Coalition partners (NTEU, NAGE, etc.), who may have BUEs assisting in Durango, informing them of the IG investigation and AFGE's offer to represent their employees should they be questioned.

We have agree to meet on Monday, August 24, 2015, to provide follow-up to each other.
Of course, if there is a need to meet prior to that, we will.

I thank you all of you for your partnership and willingness to work with Region 8
Management during this time.

Yolanda Hobart

Labor and Employee Relations Officer

EPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

p: 303-312-6195

c: 303-565-0658

f: 303-312-6370

hobart.yolanda@epa.gov